Gambell, Alaska. 10/8/34.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:-

I got here Aug. 29th minus trunk, found the and the teachers took taken me in until my stuff arrives on the North Star. I'm now wearing little Mrs. Smith's smock and apron. I'm no fairy so her largest smock is a misfit but it helps a lot just the same.

I think I shall like Gambell and the work here very much. I've not been calling much yet - only three times where there is illness, but I've met a good many people.

Last week five of the men - the leaders - came and gave their services the whole week two others worked some too. Much had to be done, as the place has not been kept in repair. It needs a new roof covering, which seems to me to be the most important thing. When the paper is off in spots the lumber gets rotten, naturally. The kitchen floor was soaked in one section when I came, as they had had a hard rain a few days before I arrived, and it hasn't dried out yet. I had the roof patched up over my rooms.

It seems to me the Govt. should attend to the repairs but I haven't begun to fuss about it yet. Mr. Smith wants the building torn down and rebuilt. and I think that is why he hasn't bothered about repairs or a new roof. Teachers who were here up to 1929 told me roofing paper had come in to put on just as they left. It looks as tho what remains on there has seen longer service than that.

Mrs. Smith said the other day she wished the bldg. could be torn down; it was right in the center of the village, right in front of their house and when they looked out of their windows what they saw was the old mission house! I just said "Well, that house was built a long time ago - first, in fact." and she agreed. From her my conversations with Mr. Robinson - I think

he did not consider our building should be rebuilt. He said the foundation timbers were good: it isn't convenient for an up to date school house, of course, but it can be used if some money is spent for repairs. Mr. Smith asked me if I thot the Bd. would agree to rebuilding it. I replied that times were hard - money was not coming in as it used to, and even tho the work was all donated, new materials would have to be had and paid for. He agreed. Of course, I do not want to be the one to decide such a matter. I have'nt been here long enough to know all there is to know on the subject. A nice modern chapel and living quarters would be fine. In my estimation the Dist. has the money to spend on Dunbell and a school house is needed. but the Juneau office wont recommend it to Wash. D.C. Mr. Smith was told that this summer by a Govt man who knew the facts. Juneau office has not mentioned a school for here in spite of the fact it is badly needed. This house is many sheets of walls.

I've had to have a new storm shed built this year. as the old one was rickety and too small for me to have coal stored in it. The old mission coal shed is 25 feet or more from the house and its not at all good. Then I had the partition taken out between the medium sized living room and a very large bedroom. There was only one dinkey little closet and I had two made in the bedroom section and as a result I have a fair living room and two good closets. The kitchen is a big room full of closets and cupboards. and it was dark - only two half sash up high. So I had the china closet and a lower wall cupboard moved over across the room and put a window where the china closet had been. To day 5 natives came and painted both rooms. The living room had been papered, this past year, for a public library and it was covered with wall board and I had the rest of the room covered so it would all look alike. I'll turn in some of the old coal for that, as Mr. Smith says they want coal and it has deteriorated and should be cleaned out.

The supplies came in on the same boat I did to Nome. but it was rough on the way from Nome to the Northland when we had to go to the ship, so none of my things were put on the launch that took us out. I am staying with the Smiths for meals and nights and they are splendid to me. We look daily now for the North Star, which will be our last ship this year. After it leaves we can settle down and forget letter writing.

I am sending an additional order for supplies. There is nothing in this house except a very poor, rusty cot bed and a poor, dirty mattress which I'll have to use. I have, or hope to have, an extra big sheet which I can use to cover the mattress. I'm going to get a native here to make two or three chairs - regular porch or lawn chairs - which Better Homes and Gardens gave directions for. They are very comfortable. I have my own table and two old walnut chairs coming from Wales, also the old dresser I asked you for. All these things I hope will be on the North Star. Mr. Smith said the other day that the mission had been closed so long that the people that no one would ever come so the things had gradually been removed. Even the cupboard door fasteners had been removed, the sink, extension table and extra leaves etc. etc. The kitchen floor is so poor I'm going to get linoleum for it. but I shall paint the floor in the living room, as that floor is quite a bit better.

Yesterday Paul - one of the five Christian leaders here - asked me for addresses of my friends Outside so he might write to them: he liked to get mail from the States. He is a quiet little man, with quite a family, and he has helped the scientists who have come here to hunt for Eskimo relics, etc. etc. He should be able to write interesting things about the old customs which may be fine for the Board's publicity work. He has your letter ready, also one for Miss Vint, he told me today.

My own stationery is on its way here and I've had to borrow from Mr. Smith. My typewriter isn't here so all you friends will be busy making out what I've scratched so hastily.

To day I went to call on a young boy who is soon to pass on. I took an interpreter with me as the grandfather with whom he lives does not understand much English. I wanted the boy, Archie, to understand the meaning of John 3:16. Finally the grandfather quietly spoke in Eskimo and said: He had always helped kind to every body; he had never done wrong to any of the people: his belief had helped him always. He had been taken care of many times: one year he had caught 20 blue foxes. He wanted to keep his belief. He wished I would not talk about my belief. So I opened the little gospel of John and marked John 3:16 for Archie to learn and I said I would not talk about my belief, but I said I knew he had been a good man because his face showed that he was a kind man. Then I said it might have been our God who had taken such good care of him and helped him get so many foxes. That seemed to surprise him quite a bit and he said he wanted to think all this over. I shall continue to see him and visit and he needn't know I'm praying for his conversion. I wish he could understand English and talk to me without an interpreter.

There is work a-plenty here for me to do and I hope I wont fall down on this job. Yesterday we had 106 at S.S. and nearly 50 at the afternoon prayer service. I had the 5 leaders in Sat. P.M. to go over the S.S. lesson with me. We are using some old material so I wanted to begin this year's lessons about Christmas time. Two classes in the Presby. S.S. at Sterling, Colorado, sent me used material from Jan. 1934 to Aug. and will continue to do that, so I'll be provided for.

Friends I know and many I never saw or heard of have given me much for my quarters here. If that I could get some things at home, which simply could not be had with in reach, but it's business district burned and toasters, duet pens sad irons, films, etc. were not to be had. I presume I'll manage some way and I enjoy pioneering any how.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Somerndike. 3- Wed. P.m. Oct. 1

P.S. I've talked with James and Laurence here, natives who have helped me a lot and they both say the lumber in this building is good but that the nails, they think, have rusted out in the small part which is used for the first grades. Laurence and James both say a while ago during a very windy day they saw the roof on that room move up and down. After that nails were used on it to strengthen it. One part of the roof on the main part they know is badly rotted. I guess they think, it would be a good thing to tear it down and rebuild.

I wish you could come here next summer and organize this church and see about the building.

I have put glass on my list and after you read this, you decide what to send. At present the two sashes have four panes 13½ x 28 each. Many panes are broken and that size glass is expensive. I wondered if it wouldn't be as well to send up 5 new windows - say storm sash for inside and out - with smaller panes and use the good panes for the windows in the main room that need them. I'll get Mr. Smith to measure the windows to-morrow also the glass. If the house is rebuilt I advise using smaller panes which cost less to replace.

Today we had prayer service at 3:30 because one room at school was heated and vacant at that time. After the meeting it was still light and James, Paul and Laurence came in and put up the brackets for the window curtain poles which the latter two had made for me. When that was done we stood around talking a few minutes and James said: When you talk to us will you please always use English? I mean good English. Do

not try to make it easy for us. You please speak regular English. We can't learn good English if people speak broken English to us. At first I couldn't understand what he meant. Then he said, "you know some times people on the boats try to help us and they speak very poor English and it does not help us. We want you to use good English when you talk to us." I laughed and assured him I'd never say "you no SAVEE ?" for "do you not understand?" Of course I was surprised at the request but pleased too. The Goodbell people whom I've met have a larger vocabulary than any natives I've met before. I'm glad to be here, but I realize it's a full size job. I trust I won't fail.

I shall be glad when my typewriter gets here but now we are hoping the boat won't come until after the last Victoria gets in, so that we may get our last mail before the boats leave up here. Be sure to have your answers to all these suggestions and questions mailed before the 1st of April so it can be picked up in Seattle early in May by the Northland. We will get it in June.

The song books came O.K. and let me know if they are postpaid or not and I'll attend to it in the spring. Thank you for the books you ordered to help me. The natives have been very happy to have the hymnals. A little country church near Green Bay gave me 28 hymnals which I plan to use for the choir when my piano comes and I get settled.

P.S. Oct. 11th I note in your invoice for this year that the Schwimbacher Co. gave me full count | 10 | 16 | 34 | beets, onions & missing the 3 vegetables, carrots & corn. So will you please change on the list I sent you from Seattle to a full count of peas, carrots, corn this year as I'll have enough left over from this winter's supply. When I send you the list I shall indicate how I would be filled on missing.

Oct. 13- North Star got here last eve and is discharging cargo now so I must end this. Mr. Smith thinks they will have a new school house next summer & if so that is all that can be attended to during the short season. Am B-

October 11, 1934
Gambell, Alaska

Dear Friends:

I left Seattle about 4:30 A.M. the 15th but all the passengers were on board the afternoon of the 14th. We had a good trip but when we got near Nome the Sea was so rough no one went ashore until evening. The first class mail was taken ashore and one load of food. About five P.M. we were told that all who insisted on going ashore would be able to go on the tug boat that was going out. Seven went and they were all new comers to Alaska. They were loaded into a box like affair on the top deck and then hoisted over the rail down into the boat which bobbed at a great rate in the rough sea. One of the women had a police dog, a canary and a parakeet; her friend had a parrot and they both had lots of baggage. I know I had more hand luggage than they, but no birds. A lawyer on board commented the next morning on the fact that it was the new comers who left the ship and all the Sourdoughs stayed aboard. We had been in the Territory long enough to appreciate a good bed and food.

When we heard of the Nome fire, while enroute, we wondered just how much damage the fire had really done but on Wednesday morning we found out; it was a great deal. All of the business section was gone and many residences. I tried to find some landmarks I had known but could not. The men were busy clearing away the debris and getting the ground level for the new buildings that they expected soon to be working on.

I made a bee line for the Maynard Hospital as I knew of no other place to go to for shelter and the Superintendent took me in and fed me beside giving me a room. I was there two days and then left about noon on the Northland for here, arriving the next morning about seven.

While I was in Seattle I met Mr. and Mrs. Smith who have been teaching here for four years. Mrs. Smith had come out for medical attention and Mr. Smith's father was seriously ill so he was sent for. I had a chance to ask all the questions I had been wondering about and it was splendid to get acquainted with them before I got here. They have a little girl about three and a half who is a bright child and interesting and we do not expect to stagnate while she is around.

In Seattle I visited with two other teachers who had been at Gambell and when the ship left I met two more who had gone there but who left at the end of six weeks. It was interesting to get the different ideas and the help which they all gave me.

As we came ashore, I was surprised to see the village of Gambell high and dry and about half a mile from the shore. Each year the Sea has piled up high piles of gravel all around this end of the island and we found it hard to climb over one mound of it and then find we had come to a higher one and so on. Those piles of gravel reminded me of the dunes at Wales. Before we got close to the village the men began to come toward us on their way to get their oomiaks and go out to the ship for the baggage and to trade. The doctor and dentist and their two assistants came ashore with us. Of course I was eager to see what my living quarters were like. The building is low and wide and I presume the snow piles over it in the winter. My rooms are on the south end and I have windows east, south and west. The kitchen is a large room and full of cupboards but has only two half windows so it was a gloomy room. The living room, which every one had said was a large room, seemed small to me because my Wales living room was so large. There was a large bedroom next to the living room and the whole place was as bare as could be. Upstairs there is plenty of room for storage and one little

bedroom. I got two girls to come to the house after lunch and clean the kitchen while I fussed around and planned on changing the house some. Upstairs I found a rusty old cot and a dirty mattress to go with it -- no other furniture any where.

I had not been in the village three hours before the natives began to come in and tell me they were glad I had come; they would help me with my work. One man tore up the old rotten linoleum that was on the kitchen floor and another cut kindling and we got thru the first day. It gave me the pleasant feeling of being wanted.

Sunday morning we had Sunday School and I learned that during the winter Mr. Smith had a Bible Study class for a few of the men who asked for it and several others joined later. A group of five Christian men have been carrying on Sunday School for some time and they have done well. Each Sunday they took turns giving the lesson then in the afternoon they went to some home and had prayer service. Paul was to have led the service the Sunday I arrived, so I told him to take charge. I took the Prayer Service meeting in the afternoon. In all the other villages where I have been when the church bell rings almost every native goes to church; here about half stay away and follow their own old superstitions. I was surprised, of course. The group of Christians go each week to the home of some ... unbeliever and explain the Bible and try to make the others understand and join their group. Several have joined and James, who seems to be the leader, said he expected soon most of the Gambell natives would be Christians.

James stayed after the Prayer Service to tell me some things and to ask my advice. He said in the Spring he started to Savoonga, forth miles from here, and on the way they shot three bears and saw another which they let go. He said few polar bears get to this island and the people had many superstitions regarding them; they offered a sacrifice before they cut it up for one thing. He told me when they got home from the trip he put clean walrus skins on the ground and placed the bears on them so the people might see them but he went to bed and slept. When he was ready next day he went out and skinned them and cut them up. He offered no sacrifice or did no other superstitious thing. Mrs. Smith told me that the superstitious ones used to cut off the face of the bear and keep it until the one who killed it dies then the face was buried with him. There are many other things they used to feel it was necessary to do. The old people rule in an Eskimo village and when the old heads of a family say a son shall do thus and so it takes a brave son to oppose them, but a few have done it and they are getting along well and seem happy in their faith.

Last week we had Teacher's class on Friday and hereafter I'll give the lesson and themen, who have been carrying on the Christian work while alone, will take turns interpreting for me. Last week Mrs. Smith said she would teach the beginners in her school room and that is splendid, as the children can hardly get much from the lesson given to the grown-ups. Mrs. Smith came to the general meeting. All this is very encouraging to me. I realize this is no snap job but I am glad to be here and try to help them all. After the holidays I have promised to take the medical work. I shall betoo busy before that time to do it.

All summer I have been thinking that my few boxes of personal articles left at Wales had been brought over here and that the mission box from the Seattle friends, which is always a big one and full of the articles I have needed each year, would also be here to unpack. My food supplies I knew would be here and when I finally arrived I had the surprise of my life. All I had here were the three bags I brought in and the other hand luggage. At Seattle I was told that the supplies were to come up on the same ship with me to Nome. At Nome I learned

the Northland stopped at Wales to pick up my things but the native man who was to crate a table and two chairs smiled at the ones who came ashore and said he'd have the things ready. He had promised to do that in April--instead he opened all the new supplies and put them away!

All the other containers might have been taken here but because one was not ready they were all left. The mission box from Seattle was left at Savoonga and it is still there. We have been expecting the North Star in but she has not arrived yet and I am working in a smock that belongs to Mrs. Smith who is a tiny little lady. The smock is a bit too large for her and so I can get it on and with one of her little aprons I am arrayed and can work but I shall be glad when my own garments arrive. It is interesting to note how things work out at times. When the North Star does arrive there will be a good deal on board for me, I hope.

I forgot to tell you how I have arranged the inside of the house. I asked three men to move the partition in the bedroom three feet so the living room would be a little larger and when the men got it out they thought it looked so fine they called me and we left it out. But we partitioned off enough for two closets and they are just right. In the kitchen we moved the china closet and one small cupboard near it clearing one corner for my dining table. I brought in draperies and material for the windows and they are in place now. I am staying over at the Smith's nights and for meals.

Love to you all and every good wish for all time.

Ann Bannan

P. S. As we were eating dinner a native said the North Star was coming and we all rushed out to see her. Tomorrow, early, every one will be busy. I'm feeling cool and comfortable and very well and I'm certain I shall be happy here.

October 17, 1934

P. S. #2. The North Star could not discharge the piano and some heavy machinery for the Government so had to lie around all this time. Now we have heard via radio that he won't wait but a few hours longer. I am wildly getting off the last few notes.

All my goods and food are ashore but the piano and the set of dishes which I bought in Seattle and I have been hunting for odds and ends of dishes when time hung heavily on my hands.

Sunday the men had to haul up the supplies almost three quarters of a mile. The surf was bad at both ends of this village so they chose the best section and when the oomiaks got near the beach they took the boxes and crates and threw them as far on the beach as they could. My lamp shade was broken as it was packed in a paper carton; the heater which is very heavy did not have one stick of crating on it when it got up here and the door was broken; it has been repaired since. Boxes of food were all to pieces and glass jars broken. The natives could not help smashing things. An old dresser from Wales had been crated at Wales and

just one board hung to it simply because it had been firmly nailed to the back of the dresser. I shall not watch them bring up the piano, I shall just concentrate on its getting here in good condition. The work of longshoring and hauling up our goods is hard and the pay is very small, even though it adds a good bit to the cost of our food and fuel.

We have had wonderfully fine weather here ever since I arrived and it is cool enough to suit me.

When I got on the Northland to come here some of the officers told me that the Communistic brother--Pete Bodner--who spent five weeks a year ago at Wales did not get over to Moscow as he anticipated. He must have stayed on the Siberian coast near East Cape all winter and in the early summer when some of the natives from there went to visit the Diomede natives he came with them. When the visit was ended the natives quietly got into their boats and pushed off and left Pete on the island. He did not seem to have any cares but sat there on a rock calmly and quietly. I do not know what happened to him. I sincerely hope he won't come here. We can see the Siberian mountains clearly and they are high and add to our scenery. I think Mr. Smith said they were about thirty-eight miles from here.

I have the cutest little range, about the size of a gas stove. The window curtains and drapes are up in the living room and the kitchen will soon be settled. It looks a heap sight better now than it did even yesterday.

The Seattle mission boxes are here but not unpacked, as the house has been so full of other things to attend to.

I must get this out on the ship when the first boat goes out so I won't miss it. We have no postoffice and there is not a stamp in the village so friends on the North Star take the bag and the money for postage and attend to the mailing of them at Nome.

Ann Bannan

Received in New York City November 9, 1934

Fairfield, Montana, Oct, 12

Dear Mr Commercial Co -

The N. Star is still here in the frozen North in and the Yost's have necessary to wait be unloaded yet. It is unlikely to be possibly by late P.M. we will have all in goods. We hope this ship will return on her way East and bring our mail.

I'm gradually getting settled. The stoves are overall but just right. I never had such a long voyage for the one. The catch on the box of the heater was broken but is not to be repaired & they said that the stove will be just as good.

I'd like to change my order some: Please send the ~~regular~~ canned ~~goods~~ ordered ~~then~~ ~~right~~ ~~and~~ ~~make~~ ~~one~~ ~~can~~ ~~of~~ ~~corn~~ ~~and~~ 1 large ~~pea~~ ~~can~~ ~~of~~ ~~peas~~ ~~and~~ 1 can ~~of~~ ~~tomatoes~~ - for vegetables ~~and~~ 1 can for this range, 2 ~~cans~~ Hash. ~~and~~ ~~that~~ ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~all~~ ~~we~~ ~~can~~ ~~use~~ ~~a~~ ~~lot~~ ~~before~~ ~~we~~ ~~get~~ ~~over~~ ~~the~~ ~~divide~~ ~~where~~ ~~we~~ ~~can~~ ~~get~~ ~~more~~.

I'd really ought to have a good ~~cast~~ cast iron ~~skillet~~ - especially for ~~pancakes~~ ~~and~~ ~~fish~~ ~~and~~ ~~chicken~~ ~~and~~ ~~bacon~~ ~~and~~ ~~eggs~~ ~~and~~ ~~hash~~ ~~and~~ ~~fried~~ ~~potatoes~~ ~~and~~ ~~fried~~ ~~cakes~~ ~~and~~ ~~fried~~ ~~mush~~ ~~and~~ ~~fried~~ ~~bread~~ ~~and~~ ~~fried~~ ~~everything~~ ~~else~~ ~~and~~ ~~fried~~ ~~fish~~ ~~and~~ ~~fried~~ ~~chicken~~ ~~and~~ ~~fried~~ ~~bacon~~ ~~and~~ ~~fried~~ ~~eggs~~ ~~and~~ ~~fried

Evening of some day. It was rough all day so M. Star is likely here. I want her to get the gasoline — a 30 gallon tank — and all we've gone so I look to take a 50 gallon and I'll not need more for two years. Please send two cans of Kerosene, next year.

Mr. Smith had said it would not be much more to get the windows than a box of glass. To day he measured to give me the right size and said it would be a good bit more. He advise the same windows as we can put up in such a way as to set the glass — making 8 panes. There are many broken windows and a number not suitable. The storm windows sent for my north windows lacked a pane & glass in it. Mr. S. says it's been very hard to get the sort, to do my screens here, as they said it was the Mission duty, and they didn't want to fix that up. He says they've used it for nearly 40 years. Mr. Troast, the sort architect, did not come for this trip, so we hoped he would do.

At present the whole house is upset and it's hard to get what I want at times.

I've been using the coal in the shed and it is very dusty. I would order any for next year at present, and I'll use the old coal first. And pray it lasts. Use for the things I've needed. The kitchen stove — and me and I may get some trouble for that. I hope to paint the L.R. floor as soon as the house gets in order. I'm feeling very well now.

yours truly
Lena Bowman

P. O. Santa Paula

Mrs. Barnes's letter to her

correspondent — P. O.

November
23rd
1934

Miss Ann Bannan,
Campbell, St. Lawrence Island,
Alaska

Dear Miss Bannan:

I have carefully considered your letters of October 10th and 18th.

I think it is quite likely that Mr. Smith's feeling that the old building should be wrecked and a new building erected, is entirely justified by the condition in which you found the old building after such a long period of neglect. I am reminded, however, that the old building was erected for use as a school. It would seem to me that since we have no prospect of conducting a school, it would be much better to leave the field of public school education and the providing of equipment for public school work entirely to the Government to provide. If any money should become available out of our National Missions funds for any new buildings to house our work on St. Lawrence Island, I would prefer to use it for the erection of a modest chapel and for the rebuilding of the missionary's residence. The living rooms for the missionary could be attached to the chapel, and probably it would be advisable to do this, following a plan that has been found very satisfactory in our work in the Navajo country. However, there is no money available at the present time for such a building, and we will have to wait at least a year until we can do anything along that line. However, if anyone should appear on my horizon who has money to contribute for such a project, you may depend upon it that I shall consider the needs of our St. Lawrence Island work as a prior claim.

I am glad you have been able to get your living quarters fixed up, and it seems to be more than a coincidence, indeed a providence, that the five faithful Christians who are the products of the work of previous missionaries at St. Lawrence Island, have been so eager to help by getting you comfortably located and putting the house in good condition.

I am very much encouraged by the splendid start you have made, both in Sunday school and church services, and it encourages me in the belief that we have been providentially guided in re-establishing our work in that field.

I have made careful notes of the changes you have requested in the supplies to be shipped to you next spring. Your letters, however, are not quite clear as to whether you want us to ship entire window frames in addition to the glass. I must ask you to send me further word with reference to this.

I need not remind you that we shall be glad to hear from you at any time you can get a letter out during the winter.

With best wishes, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:W

Gambell, St. Lawrence Id., Mch. 16, 1935.

Mr. J.M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Copy to Mr. Winterberger

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

I have been too busy to date to write much but at present the Government Nurse, Mrs. Gallagher, is here and living with me and she helps me so much with the work, I have time to write. She has to spend a certain amount of time in this village but her home is in Savoonga. She is very agreeable and capable and I am enjoying her very much. The teachers have such a tiny house and there are three of them, so Mrs. Gallagher asked if she might stay with me when in the village. She does not have the allowance for traveling and board that Miss Keaton had, so she brought over some canned goods, a quarter of reindeer, rye-krisp and different things to help pay her board. She does nearly all the chores that have to be done daily and I am having quite a good change of occupation.

While I am mentioning her I might as well repeat to you what she told me. She was in the hospital at Kotzebue and in 1929 some of the white traders there worked to get the Catholic church started in that village because they did not like the Friends who have been in the Kotzebue district for many years and they have done good work too. Before Mrs. Gallagher left Kotzebue the priest there, Father Menager, told her that he would see her on this Island next summer. She says she knows they intended then to start a Catholic Mission here and she is very anxious for me to go to Savoonga this summer and spend a few weeks working with the natives there. She thinks they (R.C.) might settle in Savoonga, since I am here in this mission house.

For months I have been writing out my Scripture lessons for Prayer Services on Sunday and Wednesday and I have given the interpreter one copy and sent nother over to the leader at Savoonga and that copy is later sent out to the herders to use. I have also sent the Sunday School quarterlies over each month to Savoonga and, whenever possible, also send some to the herders. Those supplies have come to me thru two S.S. classes in the Sterling, Denver, First Church.

Three families of Catholic natives from Nome lived on this island for two or three years and they urged these natives to have the Catholic church come here but they all said they did not want it. Last fall James, because they were so worried about the possible change in missions, wrote to Dr. Campbell and a Miss Anderson who had been missionaries here, asking them to do all they could to help them remain a (P)rotestant village.

Mr. Smith told me in the fall that the priest, who is a brother of the Kotzebue priest, (Nome) asked him about this island and said they wanted to start a mission here. Mr. Smith asked him why they wanted to come when this Island had been turned over to the Presbyterians and he said we had a mission building here and that I was coming in the fall.

I hope that the matter is settled but I amtelling you this so you will be prepared for a message which I might send in case a Priest arrives to take up his residence and work here. The natives do not want a change.

Last fall the Superintendents of the Office of Indian Affairs were removed from the Alaskan school service and the two in this northern district were given schools in Southeastern Alaska. Mr. Robinson would not allow the Catholics here if he could possibly prevent them but now there is no one nearer than the main office at Juneau, where Mr. Gordon is the Chief. We have heard he and the doctor in the school service, are now flying around visiting the schools. We hope they will come here.

I have been very comfortable all this winter. This old house is very well built and the floors are much warmer than those at Wales, also the windows are tighter, so that snow and wind do not come in. I am not in favor of building this place over. I think it can be easily made into good, comfortable and convenient quarters with less expense if left as it is and partitions taken out in one place and new ones put in in the room Mrs. Smith uses for her school room.

Mr. Smith uses the largest room for his school room and we use that on Sunday for the adult congregation for Sunday School and the afternoon service. My living room is right in line with his room, with the mission closet between the rooms. I suggest taking out the partitions between these rooms and put in folding doors, so when we need a larger room for special meetings we can open the doors and throw the two rooms into one.

At present there is a very small storm shed around the front door. James and I were looking the place over one day this week and we decided we could use the end of Mr. Smith's room, nearest the door, for a vestibule and that will protect the main room more, also provide a place for the coal and box of kindling, and hooks for parkas to be hung on.

I wanted one more contact with the natives so after the middle of January I took over the medical work. There is one little square room between the two school rooms and my quarters and in that we put the cupboard for the medical supplies; it is most inconvenient at present. By moving the partition between the present living room and kitchen, we can made a small dispensary and a larger room for the beginners' Sunday School room and for Prayer Service on Wednesday and choir practice on Thursday. It would also be a very useful room for other kinds of meetings.

Mrs. Smith's room is more nearly square and it is by itself on the west side of the main part, which stands north and south. There are windows in that part on the west and south and a good sized coal shed is built on the north side, which protects the room. In this room partitions could be put making a living room, two good closets and a small room for a study and a convenient kitchen with pantry in one end of the dispensary which would be close to the kitchen if a door was changed.

The teachers are using that coal shed and I have to use the old one in the yard which is in poor condition and has to be shoveled out whenever I want coal. The Smiths keep saying that the building is not conveneint for them and it certainly is not convenient for my use, especially for the weekly meetings. The primary room this year has been emptied of its old seats and five small tables with four chairs at each table and one long table fill the room. We used that room up to the last of January as it is much warmer than the main room and by hauling in boxes and benches we could be seated- but not in comfort- during the Wednesday prayer service. Mr. Smith's room has the singles seats and desks and there is much waste space. Our people by sitting two in a seat and on home made benches can be seated during Sunday School, when we have a larger congregation than at other times. If we had pews of any sort and had the place to ourselves, we could easily take care of all the people in the village when they come. Now there is so much waste space and an over crowding and inconvenicnes at all times.

We three are hoping that the Government will build a schoolhouse here this summer but we should know what they are going to do so that material can be sent in to get this building in a convenient condition for the next year's work. It costs a great deal more to have to re-handle the freight at home. Mrs. Smith said Thursday he was sending a message to Juneau asking if they were going to build this summer. If the Govt. builds and does not put in a furnace, probably the two big heaters will be taken out of the rooms here and moved into the new building (in case it is built) and we would be out of luck for the winter. The stoves are both old but can be used and they

are both good heaters.

The building was painted a sort of brown originally and it has evidently not been touched since it was first painted. The Smiths have asked for paint and offered to do the painting themselves but it was refused them- nothing was to be done on this building that could possibly be let go undone.

When the building was finished James told me there was at least one thousand feet of lumber stored in one of the attics. Then there was a terrific storm here and four native homes were washed away. That lumber was given to a native, by the school teacher, so he could build a new home. Then another year the boat was unable to discharge its cargo of coal, and finally the coal was carried to South West Cape and left. They could not haul the coal that distance, so the teacher tore out all the lumber in the two big rooms up stairs- they are the same size as the rooms below, and used it for fuel. I remember hearing Mr. Lopp, in 1924, tell of that. But not one stick or piece has ever been replaced by the Government. When the reindeer were put on this island the herders used to stay in one of those rooms and one of the teachers, who was also a doctor, used the largest room for his office and his patients went up there.

I am very much in favor of getting the school equipment out of here. It would be some different if the Government would help now to get this place in condition for our work. Last spring the part Mr. Smith uses caught fire and they could not put it out. Some men who had been hunting hurried into the village and got busy. The mayor, Warren, ~~told me he~~ said he told Mr. Smith to cut a hole in the roof so they could drop snow down on the fire but Mr. Smith said he did not want to damage the roof and Warren said he thot it was better to damage the roof in one small place than to stand and watch the whole place burn so he cut the hole and they soon put the fire out. The chimney in that part is very poor; it is of tiles and they are all cracked. I put pieces of asbestos around on the floor and around the tiles and next week I hope to get pieces of stove pipe wired over the cracks so we will have no fire this spring.

If I can use the coal shed which the teachers are now using for the school coal, the old one can be torn down and the two by fours there will probably be enough, with those we have in these partitions, to use in the room which I hope to have for living quarters. With wall board all over that room, I think the expense of fixing it up will be less than it would be if lumber is used. The floor in that room and the dispensary are poor and I'll ask James and Mr. Smith about that. I think it will be cheaper to send in linoleum and a felt matting than to get new flooring. The longshoring charges are high for lumber. I'll inquire about this before I order anything.

I did not get blanks for my monthly reports this fall. When I came here the six men were taking turns leading in their meetings. At first they met with their families in the home of Jimmie, who has a nice frame house and had coal to use. Later they asked Mr. Smith to help them and he suggested they meet in the schoolhouse. (his room in mission building) Mrs. Smith went and played the hymns for them, as she is doing now for me. I think there were about one hundred in the room my first Sunday morning here but after that there were about seventy-five for some weeks. The afternoon service was a prayer service and no one but believers came to that. As at Wales, to save fuel, I have had the prayer service on Sunday soon after Sunday School, in order to save fuel and lights. As soon as the whaling season is over, we will have that meeting after supper I expect. For about four months we have had a prayer meeting in my living room after the service in the church, to pray for the conversion of the unbelievers on the Island. Last Sunday there were ten of us. We began with just two natives and myself then those of the group who have been so faithful came when they were in from their trapline. Last Sunday there were a number of Savoonga people here.

Each Sunday we have more people attending the two services and we often have new members join us, after confessing and going over things with one of the leaders. After Christmas several of the young men became converted and they are faithful in attendance and in witnessing for Christ. There is a good number of young people who are Christians and some of their parents are coming to the services quite regularly now.

I did not have time to do anything about the literature you sent on "Goals for Alaska Churches" before the last boat left here on October 17th. Today I have been going over it. This is what I can report:

We have had services- Sunday School and Prayer Services every week but one, since I came here and that failure was because the North Star was here and had to discharge as much of the cargo as possible on Sunday.

We have not missed the mid-week prayer service since I came. The attendance at first was from twenty to twenty-five and two weeks ago we had forty-seven; this week 33 and it was a very stormy afternoon. mch. 27th 61.

We divided the Sunday School early in my work here because the main room is so crowded. Mrs. Smith used to teach all the beginners in her room but in the latter part of November Paul took that group and Mrs. Smith stays in with me, because she said she wanted to study the lessons with us. Paul reports from 42 to 47 each week now.

I have not organized a Young People's Society simply because I have not had time and I have no literature to guide me. At Barrow Miss Mueller attended to that, so I have had no experience in that sort of work. Please send me the information and material which is mentioned in your bulletin and I will organize a society here and at Savoonga.

I plan to have Vacation Bible School this summer if we have a place to meet. Paul has said he would interpret for me but that will have to come after whaling is over- sometime in June. Send material for next year.

I see there is a Week-day Bible School and I wonder if our Prayer Service on Wednesday would take the place of that. Many of the small children of believers come to that service. Please send me the literature you have on that subject too.

I do not know whether I can get the women interested in a Missionary Society or not this coming year. These women do not seem very progressive to me; the men are fine. But I will at least attempt it.

Please send me double material for all these different meetings, so I may share with the Savoonga people, who are younger than this group and they are earnest Christians who want to go forward as fast as they can.

In November I organized - I should not say that, as I asked for those who sing to come and practice for choir work. I wanted from twelve to sixteen in the group and twenty-eight or nine came and stayed! They had never

sang in parts before and they have done very well in the months we have been practicing. At first we practiced twice a week- Tuesday afternoon the girls came and in the evening the young men came; and also on Thurs. afternoon and evening. We wanted to have a good program for Christmas Sunday and Christmas eve they went about the village and sang one or two songs at each home and the people were perfectly delighted to hear them. They kept begging for more songs. It was the first time that had been done here and we hope to continue it. Since the holidays we have been practicing on Thursdays and as I have so few chairs or boxes the girls meet in the afternoon and the boys in the evening. We are working now so we will be able to give a concert the 29th of this month. The Savoonga people, who for some reason do not care about singing, asked us to sing for them when they were here last week. They had come on Wed. and thought they would all return the next day, so we sang all the hymns we had learned, after their directors' meeting, and the people were very well pleased and it helped our choir a good deal to sing to others beside our village people. The Savoonga teachers and Mrs. Gallagher were listening too that time, also the Smiths, and they all spoke of the enjoyment they got from the singing. Mrs. Smith said they sang "I Love Him" beautifully and as she is a good musician I was pleased to get her opinion on the subject.

The men here worked for the mission free of charge for days. I have a list which I'll figure up and give you the items later on. Six of them gave a week's time or more.

Please let me know the amount due from this church- or these two villages- for the Presbyterial, Synodical and General Assembly assessments and I'll see what can be done about the payment. There is no organized church on the Island. No one has ever been baptised; they marry according to their old tribal custom; they have never had Communion Service and recently several have asked me what I meant by Easter services.

Gambell, St. Lawrence Id., Alaska,
June 7, 1935.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

Samuel, one of the natives here, wants a Bible Dictionary and I do not know what to order for him. I have Davis edition and one belonging to the Mission - Bible Cyclopedia by Fausset- seems better to me than Davis'. I believe the native will get more from it than from the others. It is published by The S.S.Scranton Company, Hartford, Conn. in 1902. Sheldon Jackson gave it to the mission and it is No. 81, which I thot might be of interest to you.

Perhaps you know of one that may be better for the native. I've tried to discourage him, as I think most of the dictionaries are beyond the natives, but Samuel is determined to have one. Will you please use your judgment in getting one for him and mail it to me. I told him I thot it would be somewhere near three dollars or three fitfy and he said that would be alright.

Please send me the following to use when I have the children:

1	Bible A B C Blocks	.25
1	Bible Puzzle No.1442-1	.20
1	" " No.1442-2	.20
1	Deeds of David	.35
1	Let's Give a Party	.25
1	Bible Alphabet	.20
1	Bible Bookcase	.50
		1.95

Will you please give me an idea of what to teach during the week-day Bible school. Mrs. Sm th and I have been talking that over and it seems to us it would be easier to have that than the Vacation Bible School. There are certain days during the public school year that the children in the Primary room have nothing to do, and I could take them those days and the room would be warm with no expense to the Misskon. At this time of the year the children are playing all night and sleep all foren on. We think it would be hard to get them to come to school. At present I have nothing to work with.

Yours truly,

Ann Bannan

Gambell, St. Lawrence Id., Alaska,
June 7, 1935.

Mr. J. M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

I think it best to send my list of fresh vegetables and fruit to be sent over from Nome in the fall. Mail is very uncertain in this section.

I'd like the following:

1 case of potatoes
1/2 case of lemons
1/2 " " oranges
1 box of apples
1/2 case of onions.
4 cabbages
4 bunches of celery

Order of Mr. A. Polet,
Nome, Alaska.

I expect Capt. Backland along soon and I shall be glad to see him and my supplies and get what news I can from him regarding everything imaginable. We've had very little ice this spring but we heard Sunday that the Northland is in ice off Unalaska, or between there and Nome. Next week we'll get our mail and that will be one grand and glorious time. It will be our first mail in almost nine months!

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ann Bannan

We received the following from Polet (through Mr. Lane) to be shipped to her this summer:

1 box Apples
1½ cs. Potatoes
½ cs. Onions
1 cs. Lemons

Is this above in addition?

Gambell, St. Lawrence Id., Alaska,
June 24, 1935.

Mr. J.M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth A venue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

A freighter- Derblay- came the 20th and brot mail, as the Northland is doing work elsewhere. I got 254 letters, magazines and second class matter galore and some pareels. I finished reading the letters this morning and now I am busy answering all I can before the Northland arrives and takes out the mail. We had a chance to send out what we had ready yesterday when the Tahoe stopped for a few hours.

In your letter of October 24th I wish you had given me some idea of what you would consider a "fair amount" to be refunded the Board for my food supplies. I have no idea what I should return. I shall be glad to do that if you will state an amount. We will have mail this year in Sept. and I could have the amount sent to you then. Please let me know. Just now I cannot send anything. I've been busy all year paying up last year's trip and other expenses.

In your letter of Nov. 23, 1934 you state my letters are not quite clear regarding window frames and glass. I wrote so hurriedly, I am not surprised you had trouble in getting it all straightened out. I do not want the new frames - just glass. If you decided at some future time to make the changes I suggested in the letters I sent yesterday, I'd like two casement windows and storm windows for both. Possibly I should have said french windows, as I want the full size but have the inside window open. All the windows in the wing room are half size and I wanted two full size together on the west end, which will be the living room. Some of these windows now are boarded up; no glass right size in store.

Thank you for your Christmas greeting which I am glad to have; I like it very much. I am also glad to know how you look, after corresponding with you all these years.

The teachers know nothing regarding plans of the Office of Indian Affairs ~~regarding~~ a new school building. I hope they will use this building again, as it will help us to heat it.

I have not been able to read any of the bulletins which have come in but hope to read them before long. We have all had flu and some are still quite sick and all are coughing. Mrs. Gallagher came over on the freighter and helped me out until yesterday when she returned on the Tahoe, which took our mail to Nome.

The Holmes has not arrived yet so I have no idea what has been sent in to the mission this year. The Seattle Presbyterial Society notified me they were sending two big boxes, mostly bedding.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely yours,

Ann Lanman

Gambell, Alaska July 26, 1935.

Mr. J.M.Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York,N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

We have just learned this afternoon that a trading schooner from Nome is nowat Savoonga and willbe here probably in the morning,so I am getting my letters ready for mailing at Nome.

My supplies arrived a month ago today and everything that came was in good conditinn and brot here the same way. Capt. Backland called for a few minutes and said hewas going to New York in the fall,soon after he got to Seattle,so I showed him around and explained how I had planned to change this interior to suit our church purposes, incase you agree. So,if youc are to talk it over with him,he had seen and heard my side of it and ought to be able to probably make it clearer to you. My friends tell my when I give a description I should always send along a mind reader too.

I am delighted with the very comfortable cot and mattress which were sent in and the two chairs,which are much nicer than the ones I had in mind when I asked for chairs. I sent for an unpainted desk with three deep drawers,for stationery etc, and that came. Now a native,who was so sick of flu in June I took him here for a week, is making a bookcase from an old organ case he has had for years and did not have use for. He said hew anted to give it to the mission because I had helped him so much and I am perfectly delighted to know he feels that way. I saw it this afternoon and he is doing a splendid job. Now the living room has enough in it.

A native who was not here in the fall a year ago,has put in five panes of glass in two double windows of the L.R. and I cleaned them and painted the sash,making them look very muchbetter. He had put one window in 12 years ago and the accumulation of dirt,broken glass and putty made the whole side of that room look as tho it belonged to very poor white trash. We are very proud of the change. His brother who worked here last fall on a window came in today to see when I wanted him to finish that one and promised to come as soon as the butchering was over.

I am very glad to have the cement blocks as they are the only safe things to use up here for chimneys. Mr. Smith must have miscounted last year,as 14 is just about enough for one chimney. Mr. Troutman,of Savoonga school, sent over 14 more for the room Mr. Smith uses as the ground heaves and settles over there so much,he is afraid to use them, so both chimneys will be built new. Thank you for everything that came. Will you please send me a copy of the supplies,if you have not sent it,so I may check up and see if I received all that was shipped.

All is well here on this front. I have been busy with the mail that came in during June and expect a lot more tomorrow but hope for less than the first batch. I've spent all my spare time writing and now I must attend to repairs and get ready for another winter. I'll send next year's order on the last mail.

Best wishes to you and I hope you have been having a good vacation. Our summer has been just right.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Bannon

Sept.
12th
1935

Miss Ann Bannan,
Gambell, St. Lawrence Island,
Alaska

Dear Miss Bannan:

I am enclosing herewith a letter which I have received from Mr. Collier, Indian Commissioner, in reply to my letter asking him to provide the funds necessary to restore our property at Gambell in proper condition for residence of the missionary. You will note from Mr. Collier's letter that the Government is willing to surrender the property to us at any time upon demand, and that he will issue instructions to the Government representative at Gambell "to use such limited funds as may be available to provide more comfortable quarters for Miss Bannan". He assures us also of the cooperation of Mr. Nathan L. Smith in this matter. In view of this fact, I think you would be justified in taking Mr. Collier's letter to Mr. Smith and requesting that such repairs be made as are immediately necessary in order to provide for your comfort and convenience.

In accordance with your request, I am enclosing a list of the supplies sent to you this year, which I will be very glad to have you check up with the shipment.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

Gambell Oct. 6/35

Dear Mr. Somerndyke-

I've not had an answer to the mail sent out this summer but expect some today. N. Lond is due at 9 a. m. and will probably bring the mail which has accumulated at Nome since July. She wont stay a minute longer than necessary so we will get our replys off on N. Lond. a little later.

I enclose a few snapshots of the mission property here which are not good but will give an idea of how it looks in winter.

I've had all but two windows in my quarters repaired this summer and I painted the frame outside and in too, which has been an improvement. Coal shed has a partial cover of walrus skin outside and in a native mud I have covered many cracks with paper, coal and boards. The lumber in that shed is not good even for kindling.

No more now. Heartily -

Thos Bowman

Nov.
4th
1935

Miss Ann Bannan,
Gambell,
St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

Dear Miss Bannan:

I deeply appreciate the pictures which you sent me, which give us a better idea of conditions under which you are living in St. Lawrence Island. We feel that you have done remarkably well to make yourself so snug and comfortable under the circumstances.

I shall look forward to hearing more from you the next opportunity that you have to send a letter.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

Gambell,Alaska,October 11,1935.

Mr. J.M.Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

Your letter of July 31st came to me last Sunday,October 6th. I was glad to hear from you, as much time has been spend in "wondering" this and that this summer.

On June 20th I got 154 letters and by July 27th I had 185 with any number of parcels to acknowledge. After the 27th,when we sent out all the mail ready,I took time to paint the unpainted furniture which natives had been making for me and a desk with three deep drawers I had ordered from Seattle,unpainted as it was cheaper. Then after a week of that sort of work I began to paint the guest room floor upstairs as it was a sight. Finally that had two coats of olive drab and one of varnish and looked much better. Mrs. Gallagher occupies that room when she is here. The kitchen floor was full of wide cracks which had to be dug out each day,as gravel and bits of coal kept filling them up. I got some putty and a friend gave me three cans of plastic wood and filled all the largest cracks then painted it one coat and two of varnish. And then moved into the living room with my paint and brush and did that floor over.

Jimmie- a native who had been at Camp Collier all winter and part of the spring,came to the village and wanted to do his share of work for the mission,so I got him to repair two sets of windows in the living room. There were five panes that had to be replaced. I wanted him to take off the storm windows but we discovered they had been put onbefore the boards of the window casing had been added,so it was a case of let them alone or else tear half the side of the house off and probably ruin much of the lumber. He took out those in the room and while he put in the new panes of glass I cleaned the windows and painted them inside. When they were all ready I painted them outside too and these rooms certainly look better,inside as well as outside. One window has to be repaired but we are waiting for lumber to come in so we will have strips long enough for that job.

In August I began to have the chimney in my quarters built,as Jimmie was the only native in the village who had built a cement block chimney. He and Moses (both Christians) built it and then Mr. Smith said to give him the bill and the O. of I.A. would pay that bill. I thot at first that I would not give him the bill; the natives wanted to do the work for the mission. Then it seemed to me fair to let them have that money; they had showed their good will in offering to do the work. I did not tell them until they were thru with the job then I figured their time- 13 hours each- and sent them over to the Smith's with the note and he wrote the order for their pay. They did a very good job.

This summer while I was at Savoonga for eight days,I saw a lot of cement blocks back of Mrs. Gallagher's coal shed and I asked Mr. Troutman if I might have some in ase I did not have enough for the two chimneys that were so in need of repair. He said he would talk with Mr. Smith about

it and later he sent over 14 blocks but they were not enough for the chimney in the main room,so he patched up that chimney as best he could and build the new one in the Primary room. I did not have enough blocks for my chimney but Jimmie gave me- loaned me- four he had left and Womkon a near neighbor gave the mission two.

James gave us part of a roll of light weight black paper and with it I have covered the inside of the storm shed and repaired some sections of the coal shed,which is so open the snow filled it last winter. I had to hire a man to work four or eight hours on that shed this summer so we can use it this winter. James said he could not work this fall for the Mission,as he had a canoe to make for himself. He gave so much time a year ago,I said he need not work this fall.

So far several different natives have given quite a little time to Mission work and there is still some more work needed to be done. The floor of the storm shed has large cracks all over it,because the lumber was not dry when they built it last fall. Womkon has an old walrus skin which he said he would let me have for that floor; it will be nailed down and no wind can get thru it. The skin can be scrubed if necessary.

The Office of Indian Affairs wired Mr. Smith asking what repairs were needed on this building. Mr. Smith replied that the roof was very bad,windows were so bad he was certain they could not be torn our and replaced,as they would be wrecked and that another chimney was needed. The Board had built a new one and other two were unsafe; he had material from Savoonga to build just one. Then he suggested they send material in for a new School and offer the use of it to the Board for the weekly meetings. In due time he got another message asking about certain things to which he replied and has had no word since except that material was being sent him for a coal shed,which he needed badly. One day Mrs. Smith asked me which I had rather have- new floors or linoleum and I replied new floors,as the linoleum is so cold. The floors are very poor in these first floor rooms.

I cannot tell whether I will be able to have $16 deducted from my monthly salary beginning in October or not. I shall have to consult Miss Campbell who has my power of attorney. This is the way matters stand with me:

I carry a high endowment insurance ~~policy~~ which calls for a yearly payment of $262.50. It will be due in 1941 and I have to pay up to 1938- then the dividends will take care of the last three years' payments. This payment and those for my pension take nearly $25 each month of my salary. I have not one cent in savings account at present because last year I was under heavy expense,first to get Out and next to get well. Had I known last year that I was expected to pay toward my supplies,I would not have bought a piano. I had to borrow money of Mr. Gould to pay the freight on it and on the folding tables and chairs friends at home gave me and that has been paid back. Mr. Gould evidently sent the check,sent him by Miss Campbell to settle my indebtedness,to Barrow or for Barrow work,and Miss Campbell said the Board thanked me thru her for it. It was not from me.

Ever since I have been in this work I have turned quite a bit of my salary back into the work. I need the piano here. There is an old organ that came in with the Gambells, the only thing which is said to belong to the Mission, but it is in need of repairs and I sent for the material this summer to cover the bellows. We cannot have it in the

main room as there is an old piano in it which Mrs. Smith prefers to use and the only place in the room where it might stand is filled with book shelves.

I'll send Miss Campbell a copy of this letter and ask her to send on $16 just as soon as she can. I have had to order quite a number of articles this summer,which I would not have ordered had I known of this payment of supplies. I think it is perfectly all right and in time I'll get it done; the payment of the $192 for this year's supplies.

Do you think it possible to take the $185 for last year's supplies from the amount of traveling expenses which I paid last summer? At this late date can the money I should have asked for be transferred to take care of amount of my supplies for last year? Another year I'll know how to plan my business.

This will be my last chance to correspond with you but Miss Campbell will do her best to start the payments as early as possible and you may let her know what is decided regarding the above paragraph. Her address is 601 Mayflower Road, Claremont, California.

The 50 copies of Vesper Chimes came in this last mail and I think the book splendid. When Miss Lien was on the Island she ordered and paid for 100 copies of this same hymnal. They did not get here. Last fall when the Smiths and I were in Nome waiting to come here,Miss Lien also came to Nome and about the first thing she asked when we met was whether the hymnals she bought had gone to Savoonga; they had not. So Mr. Smith went to the different warehouses and finally found them in the Loman's dock building. He took them on the truck with other boxes to the Polet dock and asked to have them sent over on the North Star but they did not get over last fall nor this summer. Miss Lien is to be in Nome this fall and we are sending her word to do her best to get them over. If they do not come I think I shall pass these on to the Savoonga people who have been coming to me so often for books. I wonder if they are ten cents a copy or more? I thought of asking them to pay something for them. Last fall I brot in 100 copies of Praise and Service and gave to these natives as many who got them helped me with the work and carried water etc.

I have the World Day of Prayer literature and mean to have our service in the evening. I can let you know later by amateur radio what we do. Mr. Smith's call number is K7DYU and last December he sent a message home to my relatives and friends. If you know of any amateurs you might send me a message occasionally or else mail it to Mr. Gould to send out,as Mr. Smith has quite direct communication with Seattle. I'll give you the name and number of someone there with whom he talks quite regularly.

I began the Bible Study Hour in the Primary room three weeks ago today and the first meeting we had 19 present; the next 21 and today 20- one boy is sick and could not come. I know they understand the lessons because Mrs. Smith is not teaching at present and a native named Paul Silook is substituting for her and he is the interpreter. The children seem interested and the songs and stories are being learned readily. Choir practice is on Thursday afternoon for the girls and evening for the young men. Bible Class for the adults is Wednesday evening. The games for the children came last Sunday and thank you for attending to my request.

Mrs. Gallagher came over the 11th of September to take care of Mrs. Smith during her confinement. Mrs. Gallagher lives with me when here and she turns over supplies of food and this year will have three tons of coal delivered here for our use. She had half of her food supplies sent here this summer. Lately I said I must ask for a wringer, as I need it for the heavy rugs and garments. I did not know the Native store had them but she did and bought one for the Mission. She helps with the work and is no expense to the Mission and this arrangement is satisfactory to me if it is to you.

This summer the natives came to me to order medicine, Bibles and different things that we all know they need. They have most of these articles and now are asking if I will let them work out their indebtedness to me, or take carved ivory. I have refused the ivory but if you will consider their work in payment of their bill to me, payment toward my indebtedness to the Board, I'll let them go ahead. There should be some work done upstairs in the small room between the bedroom and the two larger rooms. That lumber was all torn out except in the little bedroom. Last fall I had some old box boards nailed in this little room, as I wanted it warmer for the supplies I had to store up there. More work should be done to repair the damage done in years past. I have a list of things to be done and some will be done by men or boys who want to work for the mission this year, other jobs are particular and the right man should be chosen for them, for instance the making of the storm window on the north window of the alcove.

In June I had some changes made in the kitchen to allow room for a small medicine cabinet and Mrs. Gallagher paid for that out of money which she was allowed for use here in the medical work. It makes the room more convenient for my daily use and also for the dispensary, which was in a very dark room between the two school rooms and my quarters.

I shall be careful not to run up a large bill here for the Board to pay- getting only the things I simply must have. I paid seven dollars on the bill of last year. The Troutmans, Savoonga teachers, sent me $18 and to make it $25 I paid the difference.

We have had a fine summer, with plenty of rain and not so much sunshine. Around the lake the wild flowers were like a beautiful Oriental carpet for weeks. Now it looks very much like fall and we are getting our houses ready for winter.

The Smiths have a baby girl, born October 2d. We are all glad everything is well in that household. She felt she could not get to Nome and it would have been a hard job, as we have to depend on the Government ships for our mail and transportation. We have no complaint to make; the captain of the Northland brot in my supplies and some of Mrs. Gallagher's last Sunday, also a crated table that belonged to me at Wales and should have come down last fall but the native who was to get it off decided to leave it at Wales. There are still two chairs there to come over.

I'll add more if there is anything that comes up later on. We are expecting the North Star in before long and then there will be a wild rush as the September ship with mail and freight got to Nome Sunday and could not discharge cargo or passengers until yesterday; today the Victoria got there and a south wind is beginning to blow, so the ships will all want to leave there as soon as possible. The N.S. may head for here as it is one port that is good in a southerly wind.

I am sending you the bill which has been given me from the Native Store. It is for the hauling of supplies this summer and for labor on the coal shed and storm shed. Some work was donated for both but not all. I have done everything myself that I possibly could in order to save expense for the Board. I regret I cannot do everything.

I presume not knowing any of us up here, personally, you often wonder about us. The 6th when the Northland was here I had to go out on the ship to have a tooth filled and of course visited with the captain and officers. They had brot Miss Satuffer down to Wales - also took her to Barrow last year. They said they liked her; she seemed very fine; she was honest and they liked the way she treated the natives after they all arrived. The natives gladly did as she asked them and they said they thought she would do good work there; she was very glad to go to Wales. Everyone spoke highly of her.

Mrs. Gallagher had worked a year in the Kotzebue hospital forthe Government. She knew the girl Percy married and said she was a fine girl, a leader in the Friends' church; had lived with the Downs, who are in charge of the Friends' work there, and knew how to cook and do housework; she was a splendid half-breed whom she felt certain would help Percy in his work and be well liked wherever she went. Percy wrote to me twice from Wales saying that he had to spend too much time with the cooking and house work; it kept him from doing the spiritual work he was there to do. His mother refused to let him marry the Barrow girl he chose, so he had to give her up. Mrs. Gallagher, who is a fine woman and interested in the natives, says she thinks Percy could not do better than he has done.

I have not used the pain you sent in this summer, as I thot I'd rather wait until we know what is to be done. I can get along with my quarters as they are now. But for the five gallons of egg shell paint, only one pint of thinner came. I think that wont be enough. I'll suggest Mr. Gould inquires and more thinner be sent when the Board decides what is to be done here.

The name of the man who will send out messages to us and ours to our friends outside is: Ernest Jeppesen, Bacona, Oregon. His call number is W7dby. Mail your message to him. The only address necessary is my name, Gambell, Alaska, care of K7DYU, which is Mr. Smith's call number. Some times you may want to send a message. This is done by the men and women interested in radio work and the experience they get in giving and receiving messages helps them to get license and then into commerical work. It is done free of charge.

This summer I sent a message to Mr. Gould asking him for some more food supplies and asked him to send the bill to Miss Campbell. We are so long here without meat, as we have no place to keep it during the warm months, and our few cans of fish and corned beef soon go. He wrote and said hewas sending the things I ordered on the North Star but did not say where he had sent the bill. If it went to the Board add it to the rest of this year's bill and I'll settle it.

It is very cold here now and the North Star is not thru yet at Wales, where it gets a cargo of deer for sale along the coast and Seattle. Some of the men have been getting seals and ducks and yesterday one found a walrus that was still fresh so everyone had walrus for dinner last night.

P.S. Please send the check for the settlement of the Store account to Mr. J. R. Ammen, 410 Federal office Building, Seattle. He takes care of all that for the natives.

I presume when we get my supply payments settled, you'd better let the Pension Board know all about it as it will make a difference in my (salary.) pension dues. I'm too far off to attend to this before next summer. I know you are very busy and I'd rather not bother you about it but you understand how I am situated.

The N. Star is there discharging cargo at Savonga but it is so very stormy she will stay there until 3 A M. then start for here, unless the storm is too bad. All afternoon Mr. Smith says the radio had been giving news of a S. E. gale blowing further down toward Gambier Sds. and ships were seeking shelter. This ship is very safe now and everyone wants the suspense over. I've used most of my odds and ends of stationery except that for Corona; my letter is so long I love to rest it. Please excuse this change in appearance of letter.

All well here. A native woman - Mrs. Paul Silook - has taken the Primary children for S. S. work and Mrs. Gallinger took the older school children into my living room and taught them. We are using the [illegible]

Jean happy to have Mrs. Paul agree to teach. She is an intelligent woman and Paul is an excellent interpreter and very interested in it. I feel certain she is the first Eskimo woman who has ever taught a class on this Island. I spoke about it at our Group Prayer Service last Sun. and told the men their wives should be taking their places as Christian workers too in this community: they agreed. More people are coming to church - the idol worshippers - and they pay close attention too. The Lord is answering our prayers as we go along.

I'm hoping to have mail from you so I'll know what is to be done regarding the wedding. We heard there was 5 more feet of ice on Bering Sea on board N. Star.

I think this is the last of a very long letter. The blanks came for my report, and I'll begin this month to fill them.

With best wishes to you and for your work I am

Sincerely Yours,

Ann Bergman

Nov.
26th
1935

Miss Ann Bannan,
Gambell, St. Lawrence Island,
Alaska

Dear Miss Bannan:

I have your letter of October 11th. It is gratifying to learn that you have been able through the help of "Jimmie", to have the chimney built, and I am glad to learn also that nearly all of the furniture that you wanted brought from Wales has arrived and that you were able with the aid of paint and plastic wood to put the walls and floors of the building in fairly good condition. I am quite sure that the Government is prepared to do whatever is necessary in the way of repairs to the building, because I wrote to Mr. Collier about the matter and he stated that he would look after these things in view of the fact that we have allowed the Government to use the building for school purposes for so long. The fact that Mr. Smith has not had definite word from the Government regarding the new building is just another instance of the bungling way in which the Office of Indian Affairs administers its work, not only among the Indians in the States but in Alaska as well. I cannot trust myself to say all that is in my heart with reference to this matter. It is enough to say that the situation is exceedingly unsatisfactory.

With reference to the deduction of $16 per month from your salary to pay for the food supplies which we sent you, I wish to say that we made no deduction from your October and November checks, awaiting word from you. We shall, however, begin to make this deduction from your salary check for December.

In connection with this matter, I am glad to inform you that out of a small fund which the Board has made available for missionaries' salaries, we have increased your salary by $5.00 per month. This increase is retroactive to October 1st, and the increase from October 1st will be included in your December check.

Do not worry about the payment of $185 for last year's supplies. I was able to take care of this out of a salvage that occurred in the Alaska budget near the end of last year, so that is all cleared up and you have no obligation on that score. I hope, however, that you will explain to Miss Campbell that beginning with your December salary payment, instead of being $50 per month, there will be a deduction of $16 for the cost of the food supplies, and an increase of $5.00 per month, making your payments in the future: $39 per month.

I am sorry to learn that the "Vesper Chimes" which were sent to Miss Lien were mislaid in the Lomen's dock building, and that they did not arrive at their destination. If they should finally reach you, please feel free to make any arrangements you want with reference to dividing them between Gambell and Savoonga. It would be fine if the natives could pay something for these books. The cost of the "Vesper Chimes" book, without any freight charges, is 30¢ a copy. The "Praise and Service" hymnal is 10¢ a copy.

Thank you very much for your clear instructions as to how I can get in touch with you by amateur radio communication. It is gratifying to know that I can reach

you through Ernest Jeppesen, Bacona, Oregon.

We are glad to learn that you have such pleasant association with Mrs. Gallagher. I am sure, in view of your isolation, that her companionship is exceedingly gratifying to you; and it is especially gratifying from our point of view to know that she is so congenial to you. We are very glad indeed to have her share the house with you, especially since she is providing the fuel.

With reference to the offer of the natives to work out their indebtedness by making carved ivory articles, I wish to say that we would be very glad to have you accept whatever they can do along this line, and if you will send these articles to me I will see that they are exhibited in our gift shop in the hope that they will find a ready sale.

I would offer to make the repairs that you suggested in the small room between the bedroom and the two larger rooms, but it seems to me that the Government ought to take care of these repairs in view of the fact that the building was in their hands and the damage was done while they had possession of it. I wish you would take up this matter with Mr. Troutman. If he is in doubt as to whether the Government will assume responsibility for these repairs, please ask him to write to me personally and I will take up the matter with Mr. Collier.

The bill for $25.59 from the native store will be paid and the check will be sent to Mr. J. R. Ummel, 410 Federal Office Building, Seattle.

With reference to the additional food supplies which you ordered through Mr. Gould, I wish to say that the cost of that order is included in the amount of $192 or $16 per month which we are going to deduct from your salary.

With reference to your pension dues, we have been paying your pension on the basis of $600 per year salary, but we shall now pay them on the new basis of $660 beginning October 1st. You can arrange your payments with the Pension Board accordingly. I am sure you will have no difficulty in adjusting this matter, so far as your payments are concerned, with the Pension Board.

It is very gratifying to learn that more people are attending your church services and that so much interest is being manifested among the natives in the instruction you are giving them concerning the Christian way of life.

The list of food supplies which you enclosed, will be taken care of when the shipments are made next summer. I note that you have included ten tons of coal in your order. It would seem to me that since we are giving Mrs. Gallagher free lodging in our house, and since the Government would be obliged to supply fuel for her if she lived alone, we might properly look to them to supply all the coal you need, thus relieving the Board of this expense. I wish you would take this matter up with Mrs. Gallagher and with Mr. Troutman if necessary, and send me word with reference to it some time during the winter whenever you have opportunity, either through the amateur radio station or by mail or wire. As you know, coal is the most expensive item of all to send to the arctic region. If the Government could relieve us of this expense in connection with your station, in view of the fact that you are providing free living quarters for Mrs. Gallagher - who I understand is the Government nurse - it would be greatly appreciated.

Be assured of our constant thought of you, and of our earnest prayers in your behalf. We feel that the Lord is richly blessing you in your service, and we pray that you may be kept in health and strength to meet all the many demands of the varied forms of

ministry which you are called upon to perform.

With every good wish, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

Feb.2,1936

I have often mentioned Walunga who became "a new man in Christ" last spring. He use to be a medicine man, well liked, and busy in that capacity. He is faithful to his Master now and when his former friends are in trouble he visits with them, trying to convert them to faith in Jesus Christ. Recently Walunga was here for a few days from his trapline and he called on Apaata, the man whom he did not enjoy visiting with last spring.

Apaata sent me word last week that he was very glad to have Walunga call on him; he has changed his mind concerning the Gospel story and listened to what Walunga told him. Apaata said he wanted me to know of this because he feels he has received something very precious from us.

Today, after our Workers' Prayer Service Phillip told me Apaata had said to him; he was ready to join us but he had to wait for a relative named Adam. I asked why an older man like Apaata had to wait for a younger man like Adam- was that just an excuse to put off joining us? The lad could not answer that. Phillip said the snow was drifting around the house of Apaata and the old man was worried for fear it would go over the roof and then--a dog get up and eat the skin. Phillip said he told Apaata if the snow did that, to call the Christians and they would shovel out for him.

Dec. 13th Mr. Smith came to me and said he was going to take the school seats and desks out of the main room and make benches. He had some lumber (shiplap) left from the new warehouse the government now has here. He had planned them to seat five slim people or four fat ones. He had made a pattern and we whites liked it very much and found it comfortable. I was to ask the men to help make them and Mr. Smith would work with them. I mentioned it to a group of men and just two said to let them know when Mr. Smith would be ready for them. I notified those men and Samuel took charge of the first day's work. It was a grand day for hunting so Philip did not work on seats. At first it looked as tho Mr. Smith and Samuel would be the only ones working that day but after awhile along came Harold, the young man who does the janitor work in the main room each Sunday and two unbelievers who said they came because they knew our people were not going to work for the church and they felt sorry for me! One of them, Lincoln, worked the whole three days they were at that job, and he seemed to get a lot of enjoyment from it too. It seemed to me proof that the Lord's work goes on whether everyone wants to help in it or not. Philip got the basic idea and we enjoyed it. Everyone was ready to enjoy the seats and the room looks much better- more churchlike- and it is much more comfortable too. We can seat about 68 on those seats and have to get boxes, boards and what-not for the other 27. Mr. Smith now has plans for the children in his room to use and he plans to make a few short benches for the smaller tables.

The room is so very cold we have nailed the outside door shut and everyone comes and leaves the meeting and school thru the primary room, so that makes the heat room warmer. An Eskimo simply will not shut a door behind him.

Feb. 2, 1936

This fall we thot the unbelievers were not changing as rapidly as we hoped and so we each agreed to pray for three families in our village. Several of them have been coming to services and appear very interested. Charles the first unbeliever I called on with the five Christian men, now is reading the Bible and coming to the two Sunday services. Often he drops in to talk over something he has found difficult to understand. This week he called and said he believed the Bible was the Word of God and that; and his and her mother also believed that. His wife told a neighbor that Charles believed as the Christians did and he would like to join them but he wanted to wait to sacrifice once more, to insure a successful hunting season this spring. That time is the April each year. Yesterday he went hunting and got a walrus.

I was interested in knowing these Christians are sincere in what they do. Yesterday Ira got two big walrus. There were three boats out and Charles got a walrus but Andrew, an unbeliever got none. Ira and Disc rew took one whole walrus and the head of the other then gave the meat to Andrew. This was the first fresh meat the men had killed for some weeks and everyone rejoiced to have it. It was divided among the entire population. A full grown walrus is huge and the natives say they never tire of that meat.

Ann Bunman

March
5th
19 36

Miss Ann Bannan,
Gambell, St. Lawrence Island,
Alaska

Dear Miss Bannan:

Acknowledging your telegram, I have made the changes you have requested in your order for food supplies.

With reference to the coal, it is my judgment that the school teacher who shares your home and has the privilege of establishing her quarters at our Board property, should bring this matter to the attention of the Office of Indian Affairs and request them to provide sufficient fuel to heat the house, at the expense of the government. I hope that you will ask her to lay the matter before the Office of Indian Affairs. She ought to be willing to do that in recognition of the fact that she shares the house free of any rental.

If the government will not provide the coal, I have instructed Captain Backland to leave ten tons with you out of the supply which he carries on the ship.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

Gambell, Alaska
June 9, 1936.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

The Northland is due here at almost any hour this morning and we did not expect her until the 15th or 16th!!! 'Nuf said on this subject.

The Smiths have been transferred, after six years here, to Kake, a large village on an island not far from Ketchikan, and they of course are very happy to leave but I have yet to hear anyone in this village say he is glad. They have done so much for the community and been such splendid neighbors we all regret this change. But they have two small children and this section of Alaska does not have sun enough at any time for growing white children. Mrs. Smith has grown very deaf and must have some thing done for that; he also needs medical attention. He is to go to summer school at the University, Washington his summer and next, so the transfer is a lot in their favor.

The Troutman family of Savoonga also will go to Seattle but they are supposed to return to their work. Their oldest child, Marvin, is thirteen and is wondering how a tree looks; all he talks about, they say, is that he is going to see trees! Its been about 9 years since the family has been Outside.

I have made out my monthly reports beginning in ~~September,~~ October when the blanks came. In counting the attendance I did not count children under school age at first but now so many come to the primary class on Sunday, I have begun to count them. The attendance has been increasing steadily and every month we see people who have stood off for years, coming in to S.S. then later to the Sunday P.M. service and Bible study. We are very happy in seeing the result of your prayers and ours, and we are praising God most of the time these days.

I'll get a fuller report written for the next mail. Mrs. Smith had lost time last fall in teaching so was told she might make it up and as she has one girl nearly five and a baby 8 or 9 months old, she was rushed and I felt I could not round up the children after school had closed for Vacation Bible School, so I asked if I might have her scholars the last hour each morning and that would give her time to get lunch and take care of her family and relax a bit. Then on the 9th of May they got their notice of the transfer and they have had to work so hard getting everything in order, house painted inside and out etc.etc., she decided she could not finish the month. So school in her department closed the 12th at noon with a party. The children were so restless and unhappy having to stay in doors when the others were hunting and playing, they learned precious little, we think. But when I checked the class up the last day I was glad we had kept on with our Bible Study. That was the group I had begun with in October and we had gone thru a Bible Primer for foreign children which Mr. Matthews, of Seattle, had sent two years ago. There was not one thing in the lot I sent for last fall that I could use for them. They are way below the white children in school work, especially the youngest children and they have to have an interpreter for the Bible study. We have all at least tried to have the study and I think much has been accomplished. Next year I hope to take the older children.

Charles,whom I have mentioned before,has become one of our steady church goers. He has a good mind,and reads well and also does a lot of thinking. This spring he called to ask the meaning of a few words and we visited some time about the Bible and the change in lives. Finally, he said "I thank God that the people Outside waited to send us a teacher. We could not learn about God without a teacher. I am thankful we have one now." In October 1934 he would have preferred to have his head on the block rather than make such a statement.

Sweeney is a man who speaks little English and he has been a convert for nearly a year. One day he called while Paul,the official interpreter, was studying the Sunday School lesson here. Sweeney wanted Paul to tell me some things, so we stopped and I listened. During Nov. 14th to March 31st the men set their traps and of course set bait a while before the season opens. When the days began to lengthen Sweeney said he went to his traps one day and found nothing in them. He stood looking around and saw a fine fox smelling around Andrew's traps. No one was with Sweeney. He said the thot came to him to shook that fox; he had caught just two,he needed more. No one would see him. Then the thot as the fox was around Andrews traps or bait,it would be wrong for him to shoot it. So he "told God he needed more foxes and that he was not going to shoot that one." He got his dogs ready and came back to the village. In a few more days he went again to his traps and found he had a very fine fox in his trap.

Sweeney said that he cannot read so he has to think over what others say and read and interpret to him. Often someone will tell him somthing from the Bible which is just like his own thots have been on the subject. Before he became a Christian he said he had gone with his father and had done as he wanted him to. Some years he never got a fox and other years he'd get just one. This year,at that time,he had three good ones and he had been honest and square in his dealings with others. Now he knows he must have been like a man in a boat without a sail or motor,just drifting where ever the wind or current might take him, before he became converted. Now he knows God has a plan for his life; he knows he has something to do for God; he feels differently about everything. One day Moses smiled,and asked Paul to tell me this:"Tell Miss Beaman not to worry about Sweeney; he is alright; he wont ever go back to the old way of worship."

Sweeney's father was the one who said "Pretty soon all the people on the island will be Christians; my children go to Sunday School but I can't go yet. My son is studying to be a sorcerer; I cannot go." In a few months from that time he got angry with a dog on the way home from hunting and when he arrived at his house,he beat the dog until the neighbors tried to stop him and he had a stroke and died and the dog had to be killed.

Mr. Smith ran in when I started to write about Sweeney and said he had just talked with the radio operator of the N.L. and they got in ice and instead of trying to buck it,were going around the island from the south,so they would not be here until evening. Hurrah! I'll have time to do things decently and in order.

We had the World day of Prayer meeting in the evening and 98 came. I sent that news on to Jimmy Ah-toy-a-lok,who was trapping at camp. Later when he returned to the village he told me of their meeting with three other families from eight to nine oclock. Then he said "I was surprised to see you made 98 at your meeting. I counted up those who were in camps and I was surprised when I realized how many of the old-timers have began to come to church. There are not many of them left."

I have learned recently that in 1930 shingles were sent in for the roof of this building, by the request of the teachers- Mr. and Mrs. Thompson. But Mr. Robinson, the Superintendent of this district, told the Smiths not to put them on; the Government surely would soon build a new school building and could use the shingles. So the roof was left as it has been for years and lumber Mr. Robinson sent in from the old Eppt buildings at Nome, to repair this building, was used for a community work shop and kitchen and the shingles were put on that. Now there is no local superintendent in this northern section; the teachers of course want a new building and so this one goes without repair.

I told the Smiths's my plans for changing this building so it would be more convenient for us both. He wired to Mr. Hawkesworth about it and Mr, H- wired back to try to get me not to go ahead, as he had plans for a community room or something for next year. The end of the message was so garbled we could not make out what he had intended to tell us. He said if they could not use this building, they might make plans to use their own new warehouse, which was built last fall. I said that there was no need of fixing that up; the few changed I had suggested to you would be helpful to us both and as far as I was concerned I was willing to share building with the teachers. Mr. Smith, like all the other teachers, has wanted a new, up to date place for his work and no one blames him. Thru a misunderstanding of Mr. Hawkesworth several years ago, the material for a building intended for Gambell was sent to Savoonga, which already had one. The new building was used and the nurse's quarters put in it and the teachers use all the other building which had been for school purposes too.

I told Mr. Smith to say I did not know whether you would feel like following my suggestions for the change in my quarters or not. I think when I hear from you I shall write Mr. H- and let him know and if the change is to be made I'll explain to him what that will be. It helps us a good deal to have the building heated five days a week by the Government.

This winter began the first of November and has kept on to date, with the exception of a very few warm, pleasant days the last of March and early in April. May was cold and June is some better but is ill gloomy and dreary, cold often mornings, clearing toward evening. Last winter there was no school in the mail room one week on account of the cold. We used the primary entrance for all meetings most of the winter so the north door need not be opened to cool off the big room. Mr. Smith and the children wore their fur parkas and still were cold, in spite of the fact he was burning one full sack of coal a day in that heater.

My stoves are both very good but they are the smallest stoves I have seen. The range fire box burned out so that in January the oven was in danger of being ruined, and Mr. Smith loaned me an old range they had used their first years here. This old stove takes a lot more coal than my small range did and I shall get it repaired as soon as the new fire box lining comes. Supt. Buckland ought to be here by the end of this month.

I wish you would kindly ask Schwabacker Co. to send me a copy of the invoice each year, so I can check the supplies when they arrive. The typed list you sent me last fall was not like what I had sent to you. Buckland has carried the candy for my station, which is given by the Seattle Presbyterial Society, on to Barrow several times. So I order one pail, 25 or 30 pounds usually, to have it for Christmas. When the Holmes came in I had only a list of the hardware to go by. I discovered I did not have the

olive oil, molasses, cocoanut and something else when the list came last fall. I do not know whether it was carried by to another station or whether the Company did not put it up. The Schwabacher Company always used to send an original and a copy and I certainly wish I might have the copy with the goods. It is late now to complain about it to the Company. Backland is careless about some things. The Company has always restored whatever the teachers here have missed from their order, but they have sent in their request at once.

I am enclosing a check for fifteen dollars and eighty cents for song books which you sent in the fall. The other money will be sent later as some of the boys have to earn the money by selling ivory or hauling in things. I sold them for 40 cents each. When I wrote about the price I had understood they were ten cent copies and hadnot looked in the front of the book. When the mail comes there is so much and the natives must come in then to visit and things get mislaid and often much of it is not even looked at until days or weeks after it arrives.

The Northland is the first ship in to Nome this year and brot 11 tons for this northern section. The rest of the mail will get there about the 12th or 13th on the Victoria. We will get enough, I am certain. Last summer I got over 500 letters and wrote over 300. I hope there wont be so much of it this year.

We have been studying the Tabernacle, as we have had the life of Moses for Sunday afternoon lessons. This Bible class is held when the men are in from hunting and is irregular, of course, but the people are all interested in it.

I can think of nothing else to add to this letter. I am glad I have been able to write as much. I am eagerly waiting for the mail from you and all the others and hope to have it to read this evening after the Sunday is gone. We have rushed so much these last few weeks we are as tired as lazy tramps. I shall be glad to relax and get caught up on sleep and loaf a bit.

With best wishes and sincerely wishing times are better Outside, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ann Bowman

Gambell, Alaska, June 22, 1936.

Mr. J. M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

The mail came the 10th of this month and I found several letters among my 192 from you but I did not get a chance to look my mail over before the ship went on to Savoonga so of course I could not reply to any of it. I was three days reading the letters and probably shall be all summer answering them.

I am very glad to get the notice of an increase in salary and thank the Board for it. Thanks also for taking care of the $185 for food supplies, 1934.

I am sending your letter to Miss Campbell telling about the deduction of $16 monthly and pension dues etc.

The Vesper Chimes finally arrived last fall which Miss Lien ordered and they were put into the Native Store at Savoonga and sold for 55 cents and the money sent to her. She resigned from the Government employ and was married early in the year and now lives near Seattle. She probably will be glad to have that amount for some household furnishing.

I finally took time to look up the price of my paper covered copies of this song book and sent a check for all I could get from the store and later shall send the rest. We all like the book very much. I had understood Miss Lien to say at Nome that the books were ten cents a copy. After the first mail has arrived here we are all so rushed we rarely get time to stop and think quietly and orderly until the last ship has sailed out of the harbor.

I would have replied to your radio message in the spring by amateur operators but Mr. Smith's generator was out of order and had been for much of the time since the middle of December, so I did not dare wait and replied thru the commercial system. I have had a number of messages from home friends this winter and also have sent a number and it seems to lessen the distance between us.

I had no idea your message referred to Mrs. Gallagher paying more coal. She gets only seven tons a year; her quarters are very cold and she shuts off the large bedroom and living room and lives in the kitchen and dispensary which are both on the warmer side of the building and are sheltered on three sides. She does all the hard work about the place when she is here and last winter bought a wringer and my birthday gave me a snowshovel, which helps the Board several dollars. I felt guilty taking any of her coal, as it takes no more to keep her warm than I'd use for myself.

Mr. Smith and I thot you referred to the Government paying or furnishing all the coal for my quarters in lieu of rent and Mr. Smith said "Now we'll have a new schoolhouse for Hawkesworth will never be willing to pay rent." He was sorry we had not thot of that before.

Your letter with the enclosure from the Office of Indian Affairs came on the last boat last fall and as I read it I decided nothing would

be done; they do not repair buildings they do not own but their employees wreck the buildings just the same. Mr. Troutman is just another teacher and has nothing to say about this village. His reports to the Bureau were full of complaints regarding the poor condition of this building allthe time they taught here,part of the time they lived in my present quarters.

Mrs. Gallagher is not here steadily but has to go to S.W.Cape and back to SavoOnga several times on account of serious illness in both villages. She dislikes living alone during the darkest part of the winter so that is why she asked if she might come then and be with me. It is much pleasanter for us both,as we are congenial. Next year she will be gone,as this is her third year. In the fall a nurse whom she knew on the Yukon, a R.Catholic,wrote and asked her how much longer she was going to be here; to let her know as she had put in her application for this Island and she had only five more years to work and wanted to finish her work here. So the Catholics are still hoping to get in. Then in May she got a message from the doctor in charge of the medical work of the Territory and asked her if she would go to Barrow and work in the hospital but she refused to consider it. She would be a good one to go there,as she can get along with people and she likes Eskimos.

When the Government used my quarters for a nurse named Mrs. Tollanan in 1932-33,wall board wasfurnished for the living room and some painting was done. Oil cloth was put on the work shelf in the kitchen,and of course coal and oil and gasoline were furnished.

Last winter was so very cold (and still is) that the 25 tons of coal the Smiths had ordered for their small house and school rooms did not begin to be enough and he had to get some from the Native Store. Then the store had to stop heating the community kitchen for the laundry and baking that previously had been done there twice a week during the winter months. I would have run short too had it not been for the three tons from Mrs. Gallagher. The coal shed is pretty empty now. Last Sunday it was so cold we had to have a fire in both rooms for Sunday School. Personally, I think three tons of coal are enough for Mrs. Gallagher to furnish and that the Board should ask the Government for the coal in return for use of the building. But on the other hand if the Government did not use this building it would take a lot more coal to heat it for our meetings. During the holidays,I notice a big difference in the comfort of the house. Last winter it was very cold all the time in every room. We have our mid-week prayer service directly after the school is dismissed in the afternoon and I usually have to put on just a little coal to hold the fire thru the hour's service. Last fall when the letter came from the O. of I.A. Mr. Smith said he hoped I'd refuse to let them have the use of the building and as there was not a piece of wall board or anything else in the village, to fix up their new warehouse which might be put in condition for school use, there would be no school. I assured him I most certainly would not do that, and we both smiled. If you could see the dark blue walls about two thirds up and then the dirty white above that, you would not wonder he was not anxious to teach in that main room. For years he has wanted to paint but was told not to.

The Northland will bring the Territorial doctor some time this month, we are told,and when he comes I shall take great pleasure in showing him the remains of this building and point out where the lumber was torn out for kindling,and all that I can to convince him he ought to report and suggest repairs for the whole building, wood blanket and wall board and new stoves for the two school rooms.

When the five officers who called last week from the Northland wanted to see the building I showed just the first floor. I asked them if they cared to look around and they said they did,and they made no comments. I possibly should avae taken them upstairs but I did not; the rooms were in a mess because the Smiths had needed packing boxes I had and cartons and we had just dashed up and got what they needed and not stopped to put things back. Now one room is in order and the other will be tomorrow.

I wrote you last fall Jimmie had loaned us four cement blocks he had left from his chimney and I thot I could get the price from the bill but I did not get an invoice. We tried to find the price but could not,as the natives who have them had got them with their lumber from Outside and no one here or at Savoonga knew what they might be. Mr. Smith said if I'd give Jimmie two sacks of the coal Mrs. Gallagher had given me- all I had except the old coal that is mostly dust- he would repay me in lumber- shiplap. He has left orders for the store manager to give me 100 feet. I'll have that later on to make some repairs.

I wish that the Greists might come over here if they have much time to wait in Nome for the Victoria. It is expensive waiting in Nome and they would have to pay one day's board on the ship as it takes 16 hours to make the trip when all is favorable. If they could see this village and our building,they would be better qualified for their job of putting the needs of the station up to the people,whose support we all long for.

I have told you in previous letters how useless our coal shed is and I have asked Jimmie to take it down. I'll use the good lumber to fix the shed and hall way on the westside. Mr. Smith and I agreed that we must have a shall way on that side to use during the winter,so the north door in the main room can be kept locked. When the congregation or the scholars have come in to the room and the door is closed the room is as cold as it was before the fire was started. The stove in that room is a huge affair full of cracks and all the heat goes right up to the ceiling and stays there,and the floor is so cold we all try to keep our feet up from it. I shall speak of that stove to the doctor! Mr. Smith has asked for new stoves for both school rooms but only one came and that was just a size larger than my tiny heater,which in cold weather does not heat my living room, and he took it to his house and used it there. I'll use the coal shed on the west side and the teachers will use their warehouse for their coal.

Mrs. Gallagher can live with the teachers here,as they have a room which she could occupy. Their house is small and cold and the children - or the five year old- was a live wire,and one who is not used to children gets worn out with the constant entertaining of a child.

I do appreciate all that the Board does for me and the very kind treat- ment I have always received since I began working in 1923. I have never had any cause to complain and I have been pleased to be connected in my small way with it. I trust more money will soon be coming in to the Board for all its work and thus make relieve everyone in any way connected with the Board.

Very truly yours,

Ann Bowman

July
22nd
1936

Miss Ann Bannan,
Gambell,
St. Lawrence Island, Alaska

Dear Miss Bannan:

I have received your letters of June 9th and 22nd, for which I thank you. I am not disposed to press the matter of having the Government provide the coal for heating the mission. It occurred to me that it might be fair to make such a suggestion, but at the same time I sent you ten tons of coal on the "Holmes" so that you would not be left without fuel to take care of your needs. I am going to leave it entirely with you to work out any plan that seems to you to be wise and fair in this matter of providing fuel for heating the mission, giving consideration to the fact that we are providing living quarters for the school teachers and nurse. When Mr. Hawkesworth builds the community building, he probably will make satisfactory arrangements for heating it; and if they will keep it warm so that you can use it for services, we would be willing to reciprocate by providing for the heating of the mission house where the government nurse and teachers are being quartered with you.

Possibly the territorial doctor who visited Wales will make a report which will speed up the property improvements which are so greatly needed.

We will send you a full invoice of the shipment which is being sent you on the "Holmes" just as soon as we receive it from Mr. Gould, so that you can check it up. You should check up the materials as they arrive, so that if anything is missing Captain Backland's attention can be called to it before he leaves, thus giving him an opportunity either to make good the delivery or to refund to us the cost of the missing articles.

You must be awfully busy writing letters. I am glad to know that so many people in our Church are interested in your work. It would seem to me to be very much better for your sake, for you to send me a letter about four times a year giving a description of your work and relating the interesting experiences in connection with your mission, which I can mimeograph and send to as many people as you desire, provided you furnish me with the names of those to whom you wish the letter sent. This would save you a great deal of work and you could simply write an introduction to your letter, stating that it is impossible because of your lack of facilities to personally answer all the letters that come to you and that you hope your correspondents will be satisfied with this general letter concerning the progress of the mission on St. Lawrence Island. In these letters you could state quite definitely any needs that you might like these people to consider and supply. However, this is merely a suggestion to help you to cut down your volume of correspondence.

With best wishes and prayers that God may give you health, strength, and continued courage in carrying on your work, I am

Faithfully yours,

WWS:BW

Tucumcari, N. Mex.
Aug. 25, 1936.

Dear Sirs,

We would greatly appreciate it if you would address this letter to Miss Bannan. Our little ones are very much interested in her. Thanking you very much, I am

Sincerely
Mrs. A. J. Luck

8/31/36

Elsewhere in this letter I have stated changes I thought might be easily made to make this old building fit for future use. Today I measured the rooms and I am asking, if you approve my suggestion, for a wood blanket called Balsa Wood Blanket to use on all the outside walls of the house and good wallboard for the upper section of the outside walls.

The main room is 36½ feet by 21 feet

The small room is 24½ feet by 15½ feet.

Living room is 26 feet by 13 feet. This room has wall board.
" " alcove is 4¼ feet by 13 feet.

Part of the roofing paper is off the main roof and it is very poor on the roof of the small room. I had some new strips put on the roof of my quarters as part of the roof leaked and the kitchen floor was all soaked and the old linoleum on it so rotten I had it removed the first morning I was here.

I think it would be cheaper and better to send the wood blanket and wall board than to send lumber. The building is old but the lumber is redwood and good. By taking out the inside lumber and putting a wood blanket on then wall board for the upper part of the walls, the lumber can go back on the lower section and there will be enough for the doors we will need between the two large rooms, and possibly for part of the partitions needed in the wing I'll use for my living quarters.

School closed the last day of April and I noticed a big difference in the temperature of the whole house after that. We have had a very mild winter this year. If and when the school is not held in this building, it will take quite a bit more coal to heat it for our meetings.

Mr. Smith has been wiring to Juneau office trying to find out whether a new school building will be put up this year or not, so we can all plan what has to be done, rather what should be done, but to date he has had little satisfaction. Last week Mr. Hawkesworth wired that a building had been requested and been approved but whether it would be built this year was not decided. I am writing all I can think of so you will have the suggestions and information in case you want to use them. All mail must be ready when the Northland arrives. The Troutmans have been on the Island since 1924 and this year they are expecting to go to Seattle for the summer. The Northland, probably, will be the ship that comes for them so they can get the Victoria at Nome.

If you can keep in touch with someone connected with the O. of I. Affairs and learn that a new school building is to be built here this year, possibly these things for repairing our building may be sent on the same ship and direct to this village. When freight has to be handled again at Nome it makes the expense frightful. Last summer Mr. Troutman was assured the North Star would bring up lumber for the sidewalks that have to be built at Savoonga because that ground is tundra and very wet. The native store was to buy the lumber and so it was ordered, with the expectation that the ship would go to Savoonga before it went to Nome. The freight was to be free but it was taken to Nome and left while the North Star went to Barrow and the freight

was $700, making their sidewalks in that little village very expensive. We are all wondering yet why the captain did not come here before he went to Nome, but captains evidently are privileged characters and we who are accommodated by them should not speak up in meeting or out of it. Therefore, unless the Mission supplies can come up directly to this Island, I suggest letting things go as they exist at present. The Holmes can bring in the new supply next spring.

There should be some pews or benches for both rooms here when the school desks are taken out. Possibly you can tell by the size of the rooms how many would be used in them, and there might be some kind Presbyterian who longs to do something for this mission and will pay for pews or the lumber to make them.

While I am writing all this, the thot often comes to me that you may have already sent up the material for everything I am mentioning. If that is the case that will be very fine. Of course, you understand all my suggestions are sent to help out in case you are in need of such help.

I shall enclose the statement from the store. Mr. Smith made it out but there was a mistake and so he will re-write it. It is larger than I thought it would be but I had to have everything I got. The storm shed connected to the kitchen was about ready to fall down and it was so small and the door was on the wrong side so someone had to be hired to shovel it clear all during the winter, everyone advised building a new shed, which I did. Roofing paper had to be bought and the few dishes I had to have are cheap as to material and expensive as to price. There was nothing belonging to the mission except a double bed that the teachers have used for the last ten years. The old cot I am using at present is one belonging to the teachers, sent in to them for barter. They have offered to let me have the double bed or a three quarters size, which would be better for the room upstairs, so I decided on the latter. There is a good organ that belongs to the mission, brot in when Mr. Gambell was here. I have ordered covering for the bellows, which leak and then it will be splendid. We use the old piano that is in the school room at present. In the years past the Government hired the teachers and at first, while Sheldon Jackson was the Supt., they were missionary and teacher and paid partly by the Government and partly by the Board; their supplies were ordered thru the Government, so that accounts for the fact there are no mission articles here. The teachers have kept good records and Mr. Smith has looked up many of the things I have asked about. I bought a small set of dishes but they did not come, so the Smiths have loaned me enough for use this winter; they have been splendid to me in every way.

At Seattle the women of the Presbyterial Society told me they had sent in odds and ends of dishes and many other things but evidently they were either put in the boxes for Barrow or Wales, or else the box was not left here, as I got none of those articles except a comforter and two aluminum cooking dishes. When I was in Seattle in April the president of the society urged me to give her a list of things I'd need here and I did so. I have had no trouble getting along without them, but of course I could have used them had they come. Mrs. Smith has been very generous and helpful in every way.

She ordered a cot + mattress with the other supplies being shipped this year.